28th November 1928]

Introduction of amending Bill to the Madras Estates Land Act.

*755-B Q.—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the landholders in a majority of cases are tyrannizing over ryots by not allowing them to freely graze their cattle or to get fuel and materials for fencing and for agricultural implements in the village forest;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce an amendment to the Madras Estates Land Act clearly conferring the above rights in the village forest on the ryots by statutes instead of leaving them to chances of litigation; and

(c) when the amending Bill to the Madras Estates Land Act is likely to be introduced by the Government into the Council?

A.—(a) The Government are not aware that the fact is as suggested by the hon. Member.

(b) There is no such proposal before the Government at present.

(c) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 755-A. The Government are unable to say anything further at present.

Report of the Committee on the Estates Land Act.

*755-C Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Estates Land Act Committee has sent its report; if so, when;

(b) when the report was referred to the Advocate-General for scrutiny;

(c) whether he has returned the same after scrutiny; if so, when;

(d) why the introduction of this Bill has been delayed so long; and

(e) when the Bill will be introduced?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Committee did not submit any report to Government. A sub-committee with the Advocate-General as President was appointed to draft a Bill to be submitted for the consideration of Government. This draft was completed on 19th May 1928.

(d) & (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 755-A.

Mr. K. V. R. Swami:—"May I know, Sir, when this committee was first appointed?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"It was a long time ago. I must ask for notice of that question."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami:—"May I know why the Board of Revenue have delayed the matter so long? The report was sent to them on 19th May."

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"They have not delayed it. It was sent to them in July. The drafting of the Bill was completed on 19th May 1928. After consideration by the Government it was sent to the Board of Revenue in July. That information is given in a subsequent answer."